

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein the locking member comprises a finlike handle.
3. (Previously presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein the locking member comprises an undulating grip.
4. (Previously presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein the locking member comprises a skeletal handle.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein the locking member comprises a cavity grip having an indentation approximating the shape of a human thumbprint.
7. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 2, wherein the finlike handle radially extends outward from approximately one longitudinal end of the locking member.
8. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 3, wherein the undulating grip comprises ten waves.

9. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein the locking member comprises both a skeletal handle and an undulating grip.

10. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein the locking member comprises both a finlike handle and an undulating grip.

11. (Currently Amended) A luer fitting connector assembly comprising:

a male or female luer fitting member having a longitudinal axis and adapted for connection at a forward end thereof with a female or male luer fitting, respectively, the luer fitting member comprising a conical restraining surface, the conical restraining surface comprising a rim providing an end surface facing distally that is approximately orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, said luer fitting member having a lumen that is substantially cylindrical at a portion opposite said rim; and

a one-piece locking member comprising a hollow central lumen, an annular, inwardly protruding plateau shaped protrusion providing an end surface facing proximally that is approximately orthogonal to a longitudinal axis of said lumen, and a body that extends axially beyond at least a portion of the conical restraining surface and toward the forward end of the luer fitting member;

wherein the locking member can in assembly of the connector assembly be moved from a rearward end of the luer fitting member toward the forward end thereof, with said protrusion snapping over said conical restraining surface to position said rim end surface and said protrusion end surface to engage each other to provide a positive stop against separation of the locking member from the luer fitting member.

12. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11 wherein the rim end surface uniformly mates with a corresponding annular surface of the plateau shaped protrusion.

13. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11 wherein the rim uniformly mates with a corresponding annular surface of the plateau shaped protrusion.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a luer fitting connector assembly comprising a locking member and a male or female luer fitting member, the method comprising:
providing one of a male or female luer fitting members comprising a conical restraining surface, the conical restraining surface comprising a rim providing an end surface facing distally that is approximately orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of said one of the male or female luer fitting members, said one of the male or female luer fitting members having a lumen that is substantially cylindrical at a portion opposite said rim;

providing a one-piece locking member comprising a hollow central lumen, an annular, inwardly protruding plateau shaped protrusion providing an end surface facing proximally that is approximately orthogonal to a longitudinal axis of said lumen, and a body that extends axially beyond at least a portion of the conical restraining surface and toward a forward end of said one of the male or female luer fitting member when the locking member is mounted upon said one of the male or female luer fitting members; and

mounting the locking member upon said one of the male or female luer fitting members from a rear of said one of the male or female luer fitting members, with said protrusion snapping over said conical restraining surface so as to position said rim end surface and said protrusion

end surface to engage each other to provide a positive stop against separation of the locking member from the luer fitting member.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of assembling a luer fitting connector assembly of claim 14, wherein the rim end surface uniformly mates with a corresponding annular surface of the plateau shaped protrusion.

16. (Original) The method of assembling a luer fitting connector assembly of claim 14, wherein the rim uniformly mates with a corresponding annular surface of the plateau shaped protrusion.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of assembling a luer fitting connector assembly of claim 14, wherein the locking member comprises a finlike handle.

18. (Original) The method of assembling a luer fitting connector assembly of claim 14, wherein the locking member comprises an undulating grip.

19. (Original) The method of assembling a luer fitting connector assembly of claim 14, wherein the locking member comprises a skeletal handle.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of assembling a luer fitting connector assembly of claim 14, wherein the locking member is rotatably mounted upon said one of the male or female luer fitting members.

21. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein said luer fitting member is a male luer fitting member.

22. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 21, further comprising a female luer fitting member into which said forward end of said male luer fitting member is inserted, said female luer fitting member being connected to said locking member.

23. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein said rim is adapted to have a clearance fit in said locking member proximally of said protrusion end surface.

24. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein said locking member has a rotatable fit with respect to the luer fitting member when said rim is proximal of said protrusion.

25. (Previously Presented) A luer fitting connector assembly comprising:
a male or female luer fitting member having a longitudinal axis and adapted for connection at a forward end thereof with a female or male luer fitting, respectively, the luer fitting member comprising a conical restraining surface, the conical restraining surface comprising a rim providing a distally-facing surface, the luer fitting member having a lumen that is substantially cylindrical at a portion opposite said rim; and

a one-piece locking member comprising a hollow central lumen, an annular, inwardly protruding plateau shaped protrusion providing a proximally-facing surface, and a body that extends axially beyond at least a portion of the conical restraining surface and toward the forward end of the luer fitting member;

wherein the locking member can in assembly of the connector assembly be moved from a rearward end of the luer fitting member toward the forward end thereof, with said protrusion snapping over said conical restraining surface, with the locking member having a rotatable fit with respect to the luer fitting member when said rim is proximal of said protrusion; and wherein said proximally-facing surface is adapted in use of the connection to engage said distally-facing surface as a positive stop.

26. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein said locking member extends along said luer fitting member on both sides of said conical restraining surface.

27. (Previously Presented) The luer fitting connector assembly of claim 11, wherein said luer fitting member includes a tubular surface forward of said conical restraining surface, and a non-orthogonal surface adjoining said tubular surface generally facing distally.